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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Glauco **Seoane** (Peru)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see A/71/463, para. 2). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 20th and 28th meetings, on 24 October and 8 December 2016. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/71/L.11 and A/C.2/71/L.40

2. At the 20th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" (A/C.2/71/L.11).

3. At its 28th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" (A/C.2/71/L.40), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Ignacio Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.11.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 11 parts, under the symbols A/71/463, A/71/463/Add.1, A/71/463/Add.2, A/71/463/Add.3, A/71/463/Add.4, A/71/463/Add.5, A/71/463/Add.6, A/71/463/Add.7, A/71/463/Add.8, A/71/463/Add.9 and A/71/463/Add.10.

[1] A/C.2/71/SR.20 and A/C.2/71/SR.28.

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4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.40 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution (Slovenia) made a statement and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.40.[2]

6. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.40, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.[2]

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.40, draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[2] A/C.2/71/SR.28.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009, 66/206 of 22 December 2011, 69/225 of 19 December 2014 and 70/201 of 22 December 2015, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[2]

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] Resolution 65/1.

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[3] and Agenda 21[4] and the principles set out therein, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[7] and the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, entitled "Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024",[8]

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[9] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also Expo 2017, to be held in Astana, on the theme "Future energy",

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels and across all sectors for the achievement of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries to achieve universal access through the rapid expansion of affordable sustainable energy worldwide,

Deeply concerned that 2.7 billion people in developing countries, especially in rural areas, rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, while noting the disproportionate health impact and workload on women and children, that 1.2 billion people are without access to electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[9] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that this will include the mobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed,

Welcoming global multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as Sustainable Energy for All, which has given strong momentum to the promotion of renewable energy, and the initiatives of the Global Climate Action Agenda, noting that such partnerships can contribute to reaching the objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which facilitates the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing also the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,[11] calls for the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives as defined in the global plan of action for the Decade, as described in a previous report of the Secretary-General on the topic,[12] and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;[13]

2. *Also takes note* of the International Renewable Energy Agency's work programme and budget for 2016-2017, and encourages the Agency to continue to support its members in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives;

3. *Emphasizes* that universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is an integral part of poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[14]

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix, as well as the rate of improvement in energy efficiency, as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable

[11] A/71/320.
[12] See A/69/395, sect. III.
[13] A/71/220.
[14] Resolution 70/1.

modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix and energy systems;

6. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development, and also emphasizes the importance of promoting energy conservation, developing energy-saving technologies and products and establishing effective mechanisms to improve the efficient use of energy-related resources;

7. *Also emphasizes* the necessity of establishing a modern energy system that is clean, low-carbon, climate-resilient, safe and efficient, includes renewable energy sources, as appropriate, and delivers energy in line with needs so as to promote affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

8. *Underscores* the importance of access to cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods, welcomes ongoing efforts, and in this regard calls for the promotion of an enabling environment at the national and international levels for the promotion of the usage of sustainable, cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods, in all countries, in particular developing countries;

9. *Emphasizes* the potential of sustainable energy use to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizes that increasing the deployment of renewable energy is a component of many countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] and urges effective and timely support for the full implementation of those contributions, as applicable;

10. *Notes* that the impacts of climate change can also threaten access to and the supply of energy, and also notes the importance of increasing the resilience of the energy sector to climate change, in particular regarding sources of renewable energy such as hydropower, among others;

11. *Welcomes* the significant cost reductions associated with renewable energy, and emphasizes that large-scale deployment of technologies has been uneven and that support is required to realize the technologies' potential, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

12. *Invites* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue ongoing efforts and take further action to provide financial resources, as appropriate, to support efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly low-carbon and climate-resilient new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, noting the potential catalytic effect of concessional and other finance and taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment

necessary to expand renewable energy deployment and development, including beyond urban areas;

13. *Encourages* the development, dissemination and diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and highlights the importance of integrating sustainable energy in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

14. *Stresses the importance* of strategies and contributions by all relevant stakeholders to multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and encourages coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as Sustainable Energy for All;

15. *Recognizes* the catalytic effect of capacity-building and technical assistance on sustainable energy deployment, and encourages existing and new efforts to enable Governments from developing countries and relevant stakeholders to plan, finance, implement and monitor sustainable energy projects to further strengthen their national institutions and capacities;

16. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion of energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable sources of energy;

17. *Also encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in further rapid reductions in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and could further increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment, including rationalizing inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances;

18. *Recognizes* that sustainable energy access and deployment can both improve and be accelerated by gender equality and women's empowerment, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and other stakeholders to increase educational and capacity-building programmes for women in the sector, to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes, to mainstream a gender perspective in such policies and programmes and to ensure women's full and equal access to and use of new, renewable and sustainable energy to enhance their economic empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

19. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources;

20. *Calls for* ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as such services are an integral part of poverty eradication, human dignity, quality of life, economic opportunity, the combating of inequality, the

promotion of health and the prevention of morbidity and mortality, access to education, clean drinking water and sanitation, food security, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact reduction, social inclusion and gender equality, including for persons affected by humanitarian crises;

21. *Welcomes* the expansion of renewable energy capacity additions, which are now greater than those of other energy power sources, as well as the net positive job contribution of renewables;

22. *Recognizes* the importance of expanding the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector, encourages further efforts to promote renewable energy use in industry, construction and infrastructure and in particular in the transport sector, in the context of sustainable development, including climate change, and calls for greater efforts and attention to those sectors, including through policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels in order to scale up new and renewable energy technologies and low-carbon technologies that can reduce negative environmental impacts, especially in the near term;

23. *Also recognizes* that current global progress in improving energy efficiency falls well below the pace necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030;

24. *Encourages* the adoption of building performance codes and standards, the uptake of renewable energy, energy efficiency labelling, the retrofitting of existing buildings and public procurement policies on energy, among other modalities as appropriate, as well as the prioritization of smart grid systems, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency;

25. *Calls for* national efforts to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and reaffirms its commitment to support subnational and local efforts, taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings, industry, transport, waste and sanitation;

26. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to use and promote an integrated resource planning and management approach in their energy strategies, which considers energy choices in the context of linked sectors, inter alia, water, air quality and food, taking into account national circumstances;

27. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predictable financial resources and technical assistance for sustainable energy and to enhance the effectiveness, coordination and full utilization of appropriate international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to make concrete proposals on the strengthening, through existing arrangements, of both inter-agency and intergovernmental coordination, institutional support on energy issues, and to give appropriate consideration to

progress on sustainable energy in the context of the 2030 Agenda in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

28. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All and related activities within the United Nations system for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

30. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all", unless otherwise agreed.

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Sustainable development: sustainable mountain development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Glauco **Seoane** (Peru)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see A/71/463, para. 2). Action on sub-item (j) was taken at the 24th and 25th meetings, on 8 and 18 November 2016. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/71/L.18 and A/C.2/71/L.18/Rev.1

2. At the 24th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Italy, also on behalf of Peru, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/71/L.18).

3. At its 25th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/71/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 11 parts, under the symbols A/71/463, A/71/463/Add.1, A/71/463/Add.2, A/71/463/Add.3, A/71/463/Add.4, A/71/463/Add.5, A/71/463/Add.6, A/71/463/Add.7, A/71/463/Add.8, A/71/463/Add.9 and A/71/463/Add.10.

[1] A/C.2/71/SR.20 and A/C.2/71/SR.25.

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4. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru made a statement and announced that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Israel, the Philippines, Poland and Suriname, had joined as sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the 25th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.18/Rev.1 (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005, 62/196 of 19 December 2007, 64/205 of 21 December 2009, 66/205 of 22 December 2011 and 68/217 of 20 December 2013, entitled "Sustainable mountain development",

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished busines

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, recognizes that economic and social development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources and confirms the determination of the international community to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas and freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands, and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife,

Recalling also its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level",

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its early entry into force, encouraging all parties to the Agreement to fully implement it, and encouraging parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, inter alia, recognizes that developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are among the countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Recognizing the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[1] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the latter of which, inter alia, identifies a need for focused action in investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and in this regard considers it important to promote, at the national and local levels, the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", Agenda 21,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[3] and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[4]

Recognizing that the benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development and that mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing water and other essential resources and services to a large portion of the world's population,

Recognizing also that mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation and forest degradation, land use change, land degradation and natural disasters, from which they recover slowly, and that mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment, sustainable livelihoods and human well-being,

Acknowledging that, despite the progress that has been made in promoting sustainable development of mountain regions and conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, the prevalence of poverty, food insecurity, social exclusion, environmental degradation and exposure to the risk of disasters is still high, particularly in developing countries, and access to safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation as well as to sustainable modern energy services continues to be limited,

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[1] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

Noting with deep concern that, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,[5] the number of mountain people in developing countries considered vulnerable to food insecurity increased by 30 per cent between 2000 and 2012, while the total world population of people who live in mountain areas increased by 16 per cent, and in this regard acknowledging the need to prioritize the special and urgent attention needed by mountain areas, including by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide,

Noting the collaborative efforts of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (Mountain Partnership), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a multi-stakeholder approach benefiting from the committed support of 57 Governments, 14 intergovernmental organizations, 210 organizations from major groups and five subnational authorities, and engaged in the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in mountain regions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development;[6]

2. *Encourages* States to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches, including through incorporating mountain-specific policies into national sustainable development strategies, increase efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and address food insecurity and malnutrition, social exclusion, environmental degradation and disaster risk in mountain areas, taking into account that an integrated landscape approach which addresses natural resources management, including watershed and sustainable forest management as well as climate change resilience through multi-stakeholder approaches, can lead to the sustainable development of highland areas, the improvement of the livelihood of the local mountain communities and the sustainable use of mountain resources;

3. *Stresses* the special vulnerability of people living in mountain environments, often with limited access to health, education and economic systems and particularly at risk because of the negative impact of extreme natural phenomena, and invites States to strengthen cooperative action, with the effective involvement and sharing of knowledge and experience of all relevant stakeholders, including traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples living in mountain areas and knowledge of local mountain communities, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate;

4. *Also stresses* the importance of innovative solutions for the diversification of livelihoods and income enhancement opportunities for local mountain communities, and in this regard encourages the promotion of innovative solutions and entrepreneurship within local mountain communities, as appropriate, to end poverty and hunger;

5. *Further stresses* that the traditions and knowledge of indigenous peoples living in mountain areas and the knowledge of local mountain communities,

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[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Mapping the Vulnerability of Mountain Peoples to Food Insecurity* (Rome, 2015).

[6] A/71/256.

particularly in the fields of agriculture and medicine, should be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy, strategies and programmes in mountain regions, and underlines the need to promote the full participation and involvement of local mountain communities in decisions that affect them and to integrate indigenous and local knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives, in consultation with and with the consent of the concerned indigenous peoples and local mountain communities, as appropriate;

6. *Notes* that women are often the primary managers of mountain resources and the main actors in agriculture, underlines the need for improved access to resources, including land and economic and financial services, for women in mountain regions, as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments, and encourages Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including data disaggregated by sex, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

7. *Recognizes* that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications to biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers, flash floods and changes in seasonal runoff, which are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena, promote adaptation measures and prevent the loss of biological diversity;

8. *Encourages* Member States to collect at the local, national and regional levels, as appropriate, disaggregated scientific data on mountain areas through systematic monitoring, including of trends of progress and change, based on relevant criteria, to support interdisciplinary research programmes and projects and to enhance an integrated and inclusive approach to decision-making and planning, and in this regard takes note of the consideration of the Mountain Green Cover Index in the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

9. *Encourages* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to continue to increase public awareness with respect to the economic benefits that mountains provide, not only to highland communities but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas;

10. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and generate socioeconomic benefits for local communities, including opportunities for productive employment, economic growth and the promotion of local culture and products;

11. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural and man-made disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for societies throughout the world, and recognizes that disaster risk reduction requires a broader and more people-centred preventive approach and an all-of-society engagement and partnership, empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest, and also taking into

account the vulnerability of people living in mountain environments, especially those in developing countries;

12. *Encourages* States to strengthen disaster risk governance, to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience and to develop and improve disaster risk strategies in mountain regions, including a forward-looking perspective, in order to cope with such extreme events as rockfalls, avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides, which can be exacerbated by climate change and deforestation, consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;[1]

13. *Encourages*, in this regard, the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and in other relevant activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

14. *Notes* the importance of ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for human well-being, economic activity and sustainable development, and of developing innovative means of implementation for their protection, recognizes in this regard the launching of the Mountain Facility of the Mountain Partnership, and encourages States and other relevant stakeholders to financially support it on a voluntary basis;

15. *Encourages* greater efforts by States, all stakeholders and the international community towards the conservation of mountain ecosystems and the enhancement of the well-being of their local populations, including by promoting investment in infrastructure in mountain areas, such as transport and information and communication technologies, supporting education, extension and capacity-building programmes, especially among local mountain communities and other relevant stakeholders, taking into account the extent of the current challenges they face and bearing in mind the increased economic, social and environmental costs that inaction might represent for countries and societies;

16. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national sustainable development plans, including by building and strengthening institutional capacities, as appropriate;

17. *Encourages* the further undertaking of multi-stakeholder and transboundary initiatives at the national, regional and global levels, where appropriate, such as those supported by all relevant international and regional organizations, to enhance sustainable development in mountain regions, and notes in this regard the numerous initiatives undertaken, including the second World Mountain Forum, held in Cusco, Peru, in May 2014, the third World Mountain Forum, held in Mbale, Uganda, in October 2016, the Mountain Partnership Event on nutrition and mountain products held in Turin, Italy, in September 2016, and the United Nations Environment Programme-led project entitled "Climate change

action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from a subregional perspective";

18. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to promote sustainable mountain development;

19. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches where the States concerned agree to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

20. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)[7] and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, which promote constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable mountain development and provide a forum for dialogue among stakeholders, as well as other transboundary approaches and initiatives such as the Mountain Partnership Andean Initiative, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region, the African Mountains Regional Forum, the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region and the Zurich process and the Hindu Kush Himalayan Partnership for Sustainable Mountain Development;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", unless otherwise agreed.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.